

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	EAS.56
Historic Name:	Harding, Capt. Henry K. House
Common Name:	Whalewalk Farm Inn
Address:	220 Bridge Rd
City/Town:	Eastham
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	20-062
Year Constructed:	c 1828
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Federal; Greek Revival
Use(s):	Hotel or Inn; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce
Area(s):	EAS.J: Bridge - Dyer Prince Roads Area
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood Shingle; Wood Foundation: Stone, Cut



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on:

Friday, May 15, 2015 at 10:25 PM

FORM B - BUILDING

P1-#
E AS.56

Massachusetts Historical Commission
 Massachusetts Archives Building
 220 Morrissey Boulevard
 Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Assessor's
 Number

20/062

USGS Quad

Orleans

Area(s)

J

Form Number

56

Town

Eastham

(neighborhood or village)

220 Bridge Road

Historic Name Captain Henry Harding House

Present Residential

Original "

Date of Construction c. 1828

See Bibliography*

Style/Form Federal/Greek Revival

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation

Cut Stone

Wall/Trim Clapboard, Shingles (rear addition)

Roof Not Visible

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures
See Architectural Description.Major Alterations (with dates)
See Architectural Description.

Condition Good

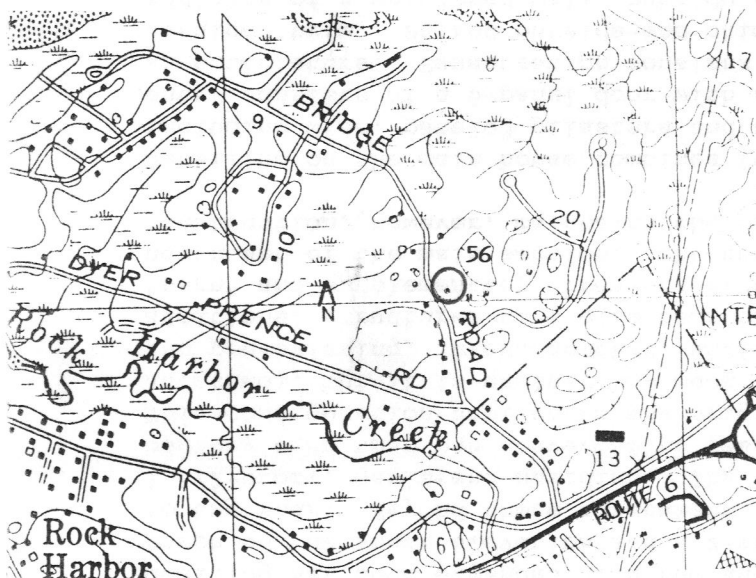
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage Acres

Setting Located in a moderately-settled, rural area near the intersection of Dyer Prince Road.



here. Indicate North.



Recorded by: Dianne L. Siergiej
 and Sanford Johnson
 Organization: Commonwealth Collaborative

Date: August 1995

RECEIVED

SEP 20 1995

MASS. HIST. COMM.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION See continuation sheet.

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The 2-story, 5 x 2-bay, shallow, balustraded, hip-roofed main block of this dwelling has been expanded with the addition of a full-depth, balustraded sun porch on the south elevation and a 2-story, flat-roofed, full-width addition to the rear. Beyond these attachments is a long, L-shaped ell that leads to a 1 1/2-story, gable-end building. The latter appears to be a nineteenth-century barn that was converted to residential use in the twentieth century. This configuration duplicates the original formation of the farm complex (see attached), but it is unclear how much if any of this construction incorporates the pre-existing, interconnected, agricultural buildings. Now a large inn, additional structures have also been erected off the rear elevation of the "barn" and supplementary, free-standing cottages are located to the south and northeast of the main section. The subordinate orientation of this additional construction, however, maintains the prominence of the original house.

Detailing on the main house combines Federal with Greek Revival elements including wide, paneled pilasters and a wide, 2-part frieze. The main entry consists of a 6-panel door with slightly-bulbous pilasters supporting an entablature. Fenestration consists of 6/6, double-hung sash with corniced trim. Paired outside-end chimneys have been supplemented by the addition of a weathered wall, outside end chimney on the north elevation. A rectangular, flat roofed, balustraded cupola centers the roof. Once likely fenestrated on all sides, it is now enclosed except for a window on the facade.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE X See continuation sheet.

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The Rogers map of 1795 and the Hales map of 1831 indicate Bridge Road was laid out during the Federal Period. The reconnaissance report of the Massachusetts Historical Commission describes the road as a local loop off King's Highway. The second meetinghouse was built in the area by 1720 and a school was built in 1762. By 1831, there were salt works, several residences and a shallow canal from the Boat Meadow River to Town Cove near the southern end of Bridge Road. The road was extended north in 1837 when a bridge was constructed over the Boat Meadow River and accorded a name to the route. Agriculture played an important role in the development of Eastham from the Colonial Period through the Early Modern Period.

According to research completed in 1991 by Nancy Heller of the Eastham Historical Society, the house at 220 Bridge Road may have been constructed c. 1828, the year in which Captain Henry Harding (b. 1806; d. 1859), who built the house, purchased land from his parents, Ephraim (b. June 14, 1764; d. 1849) and Lucy Smith Harding (Bk.13; Pg.'s 88 and 89). The site of 220 Bridge Road appears to be occupied by a building on the 1831 Hales map. Henry Harding (1806-1859), was a sea captain who may also have worked as a wheelwright, a carpenter and postmaster of Eastham later in his life.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES X See continuation sheet.

 X Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places;
If checked, see attached National Register Criteria Statement form.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (continued)

By 1858, the occupant of 220 Bridge Road was S. Harding, likely Henry Harding's widow and second wife, Susan (Mayo, Eldridge) Harding. The 1880 map of Eastham assigns the house to Henry K. Harding (b. 1829; d. September 10, 1892), son of Prince S. and Nancy B. (Knowles) Harding, and apparently the nephew of Henry Harding. Henry K. Harding was a carriage maker in business with his father until 1864. He then moved for twenty years to Tiverton, Rhode Island where he was involved in the manufacture of menhaden oil. After his retirement, he returned to his homestead in Eastham. Henry K. Harding bequeath all his real estate to his wife, Betsey F. Harding, the daughter of Alvin and Eliza (Gould) Smith.

By 1907, the house had been inherited by George M. Harding, the son of Henry K. and Betsey Harding. George rented the house for at least the year 1907-08 to a family from Boston. Neither George Harding nor the Boston family is listed in the 1901 resident directory for Eastham. The house remained in the Harding Family until sometime before 1920. It has been operated as a bed and breakfast since the 1950's.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (continued)

Deyo, Simeon L. ed. History of Barnstable County, Massachusetts, 1620-1890. (New York: H. W. Blake, 1890), p. 740.

*House File for 220 Bridge Street, Eastham Historical Society Archives.

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Lowe, Alice Alberta. Nauset on Cape Cod: A History of Eastham. (Falmouth: Eastham Historical Society, 1968), pp. 37 and 80.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. Reconnaissance Report: Eastham, Massachusetts.

Resident and Business Directory of Cape Cod, 1901.

Hales, John G. Map of the Town of Eastham, 1830.

Roger, Josiah, Knowles, Elijah and Kinsman, Simeon. Map of the Town of Eastham, 1794.

Walker, George F. Atlas of Barnstable County. Boston: George F. Walker & Co., 1880.

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

220 Bridge Road
Eastham

Area Form No. 56



*Captain Harding House
"Whalewalk"
before 1848*

The house that Henry built, sometimes referred to as the Captain Harding house. Today, it is a country inn known as "Whalewalk Farm," run by Mac and Jeanne Campbell (and before them Mac and Helene MacNeill, who now live just next door).

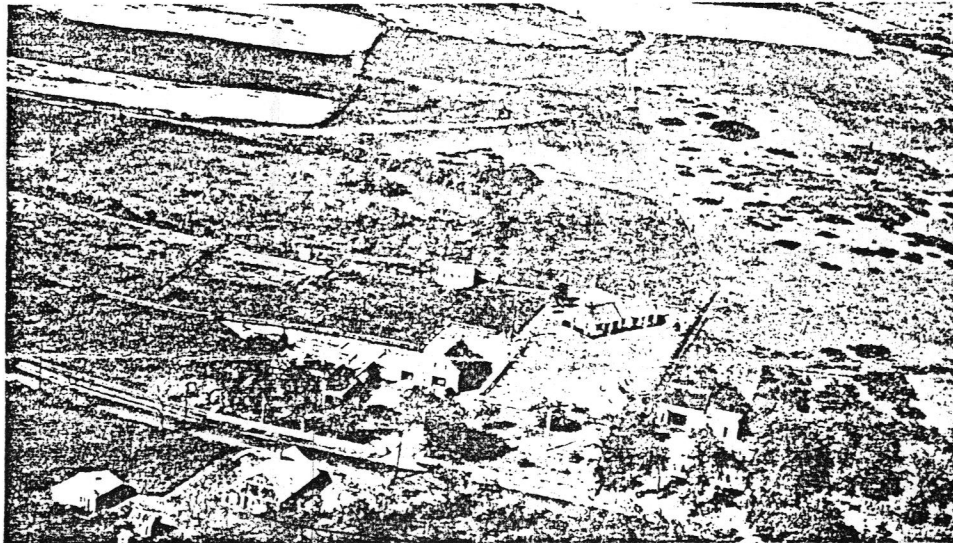


The person who took this picture, when Bridge Road was just another sandy set of wagon tracks, is unknown.



The same view today.

Noel W. Beyle



Whalewalk Farm from the air several years ago. The old Smith-Freeman-Wheeler house is on the bottom left. The land behind Whalewalk is now the site of a housing development. This picture is courtesy of Kelsy Airviews.

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community: Eastham
Property Address: 220 Bridge Road

EAS.56

Area Form No. 56

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement

Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible only in a historic district
☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by: Dianne L. Siergiej
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The property at 220 Bridge Road is significant on a local level with regard to the above-referenced criteria as a rare example of an exceptional, grand house in a community of small dwellings and as a representative of a transitional federal/Greek Revival dwelling in Eastham. It is also significant for its association with Captain Henry Harding, mariner and businessman and its long association with the Harding Family who retained the property into the twentieth century.

Original yellow form: Eligibility file _____
Copies: Inventory form ☒ _____
Town file(w/corresp.) _____
Macris _____
NR director _____

EAS.56

Community: Eastham

MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Received: _____ Date Due: _____ Date Reviewed: 12/6/95

Type: ☒ Individual _____ District (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name: Captain Henry Harding House Inventory Form: EAS.56

Address: 220 Bridge Road

Requested by: LHC

Action: ☒ Honor _____ ITC _____ Grant _____ R & C _____ Other:

Agency: _____ Staff in charge of Review: BF

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

☐ Eligible
☐ Eligible, also in district
☐ Eligible only in district
☐ Ineligible
☒ More information needed

DISTRICTS

☐ Eligible
☐ Ineligible
☐ More information needed

CRITERIA: _____ A _____ B _____ C _____ D

LEVEL: _____ Local _____ State _____ National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE by Michael Steinitz

The Captain Henry Harding House, 220 Bridge Road is an unusually large and ornate example of Federal/Greek Revival residential architecture that appears to retain the configuration of a complex of connecting ells and barn. The property also has historical associations with the Harding family over nearly a hundred year period. However, the apparently extensive modern renovations and additions to the property raise some concerns about the overall integrity of the property, and photographs included with the inventory form do not show the nature and extent of these changes. To assess National Register eligibility, MHC staff would need information on the dates and nature of post-1950 additions, renovations and new construction on the property, and current photographs of both interior and exterior modern construction. **220 Bridge Road** may also be eligible as part of a larger National Register district along Bridge Road. More information in the form of an MHC Area Form for Bridge Road would be necessary for MHC to evaluate the eligibility potential of this area.